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Tuesday, June 26, 2012

THE MORNING NEWS

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Eviction pits Haiti police against protestors

PORT-AU-PRINCE (AFP) - Clashes broke out in Haiti yesterday between police and protestors against government plans to evict them from homes precariously perched on the hills above the capital Port-au-Prince.

At least one person was wounded when groups of young people from the hill-based neighborhoods erected flaming barricades and brawled with police, who used teargas to disperse the crowd.

Targeted by the eviction are nearly 400 families, living in small dwellings the government has determined to be unsafe. Their homes cover a large part of the dreary Haitian hill town of Jalousie, near a ravine and situated above the Haitian capital.

"We can't allow people to endanger their lives in slums that can collapse at any moment," Haitian minister charged with human rights and the battle against poverty, Rose-Anne Auguste, told AFP.

From 8:00am to 10:00am: Primary Road in front of airport will be closed off today

ORANJESTAD – Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA) informs the public of Aruba that as of today, Tuesday, June 26 2012 from 8:00 am to 10:00 am the primary road in front of the airport terminal will be closed off.

During the 2 hours that the primary road will be closed off, all drivers must follow instructions given by the airport's Traffic Police Officers who will reroute the traffic.

Please pay close attention to this. The primary road will be opened again at 10:00 am.

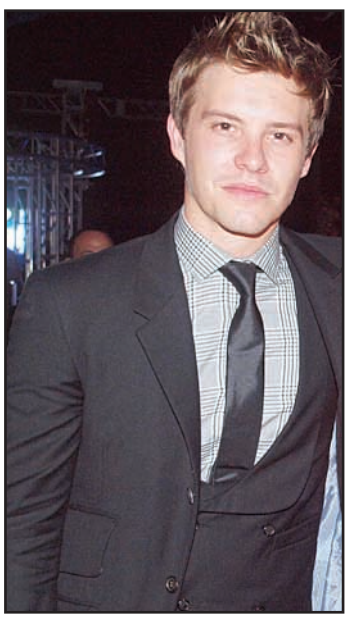
BMW hosts an elegant affair to announce the winners of the AIFF Caribbean Spotlight Series

The third night of the third edition of the Aruba International Film Festival was one of the most exciting the island has seen. A full weekend of screening the six entries in the CSS Competition and the seven comprising the Aruba Flavor category brought audiences in droves, ending with a unique and stylish award ceremony atop the parking facility of Paseo Herencia Shopping Center.

The rooftop provided an unexpectedly elegant venue for an equally but expected elegant soirée hosted by Ultimate Automobiles, the exclusive dealership for BMW on Aruba. It was catered by the Hyatt Regency Culinary department with Romar Trading providing Johnny Walker Blue label and other premium liquors adding the final exceptional touch.



Ray Liotta with Sudesh Manichand of Jolly Holdings and Jonathan Vieira



Actor Xavier Samuel

The participating artists and filmmakers from the CSS, Aruba Flavor, and inaugural AIFF Art Contest were the special guests, mixing and mingling with celebrity stars on island for the festival.

Continued on page 12



Virginia Madsen and friend with Claudio Masenza





Dutch Secretary of State..."Aruba is of major importance to Holland!"



In this month's, *Aruba Dushi Tera* magazine, there's an article of an interview with Dutch Secretary of State Henk Bleker (CDA) who is in charge of economic affairs, agriculture and innovation. In the published interview, Bleker makes a number of positive remarks concerning Aruba. He mentions that..."Aruba has added important value to Holland and particularly to Holland's commerce and industry as a stepping stone to Latin America which is developing as a strong economy."

He is of the opinion that most businesses in Holland and Europe do not have a notion of the value of Aruba for them as a gateway for economic growth. This is one of the reasons for the planned conference on "Europe meets the America's," which is to be held here on Aruba very soon.

The idea of Aruba serving as a gateway was born during a commercial mission where the Dutch Secretary of State Bleker invited Ministers de Meza and Oduber to be part of his delegation. Aruba is a bridge between North America and Latin America as well as between Europe and Latin America. Businesses on both sides of the bridge can take advantage of the marketing opportunities of each other. But, claims Bleker, we must identify these opportunities to each other. This can happen during the conference "Europe meets the Americas" according to Bleker.

Dutch Secretary of State Henk Bleker is convinced that "we must give ample publicity to the "hub" that Aruba can provide... . "Aruba can help us!"...he claims.

Countries like Brazil, Colombia and Panama are economies that are growing very rapidly. And, it is regrettable that businesses in Europe are not benefitting from this growth. Arubans have a network of businesses and governments in Latin America. They speak the language and know the culture. And, the Aruban also knows the culture of Europe and speaks Dutch. This makes Aruba very unique. In addition to all of this, Aruba has the US preclearance at the airport. This means that everyone from Latin America who wants to travel to the USA can travel via Aruba through the American immigration and customs, making entrance to the USA much simpler.

Bleker is of the opinion that Dutch/European industry and commerce is not fully aware of the important function of the "Hub" that Aruba offers. The function of this Hub must be better publicized.

It is believed that the "Europe meets the Americas" conference will provide opportunities for durability in tourism and in infrastructure, which are the top sectors on Aruba.

Aruba is already benefitting greatly from the cooperation with the Netherlands. Examples are the TNO with their testing of electrical installations and certifications. Also, the cooperation between Schiphol and the Aruba Queen Beatrix Airport.



Caribbean Spotlight and Aruba Flavor Winners 2012

"Children of the Wind" is the People's Choice



CSS Executive Director Aaron Hose (c) and Asst Director Rebecca Roos with Jury



Aruba Flavor Popular Choice winner AWA Brak Francisco Pardo and Ryan Oduber

This past Sunday evening's landmark BMW Party at Paseo Herencia ended with the short but sweet ceremony for a number of filmmakers, those regional entries which were screened at The Cinemas in Palm Beach over the opening weekend of the Aruba International Film Festival.

Caribbean Spotlight Series Executive Director Aaron Hose and AIFF Executive Producer Jonathan Vieira expressed their gratitude to the many filmmakers who submitted the excellent and diverse collection of films in this year's competitions. All entrants were treated royally during the award ceremony, but sadly, only a few can walk away with the coveted trophies.

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Magical moments with movies stars: the AIFF In Conversation With series



Virgina Madsen

Insightful off screen peeks into the true personas of famous stars as well as enlightening advice from some of the most interesting filmmakers of the day are the hallmark of the Aruba International Film Festival's "In Conversation With" sessions, and glamour girl Virgina Madsen proved to be a very sweet, smart and down-to-earth lady during her interaction with fans on Saturday afternoon, June 23.

The enduring actress admitted to the low points in her career, and the breathtaking process that went into her being selected for her Oscar and Golden Globe role in the sleeper hit "Sideways" opposite Paul Giamatti.

"Producers wanted a big name in the part, as most of the actors were not A-list at the time, but I found out that Director Alexander Payne was literally fighting for me to play Maya, and that is why it took so long for me to be told I was given the part. It could not have come at a better time."

Virginia is the sister of well-known actor Michael Madsen, who she credits with inspiring her and helping her when she started out. "Agents were telling me some pretty strange and discouraging things, but he got me with his agent, who believed in me, and we all went to California to forge our careers in Hollywood," she recalled for the session's moderator, Ben Lyons, of NBC Extra.

She credits famed director David Lynch for her first big break, as he cast her from a Polaroid picture for the small but pivotal part of Princess Irulan in the lush production of Frank Herbert's "Dune." The movie opens with a nearly 5-minute monolog by Madsen, filled with made up, tongue-twisting words created by the author for his imaginary world. Dune star Kyle Maclachlan helped her get through it by writing them out phonetically. "I was little more than an extra, standing around watching these great actors, but though daunting, it was a good start to my career."

Her Dune experience also resulted in one of her most amusing Hollywood anecdotes among many, her first encounter with Arnold Schwarzenegger, who was sharing the make up trailer with Virginia as they prepared him for a scene in "Conan the Barbarian."

We were talking and he suddenly stood and took off his cloak so they could apply a scare to his chest," she recalled. "I was speechless, he was standing there in a loincloth and I had never seen such a beautiful man before. The next thing I know, there is Conan the Barbarian asking me about how I am handling my tax returns and giving me advice…it was absolutely bizarre."



Virgina Madsen and Ben Lyon of NBC Extra

Ms. Madsen humbly admitted she is always looking for a job, and was utterly honest about the ups and downs of her career, and the comments she has contended with over the years about her weight, about her looks, about getting older- "there will always be someone with something to say aimed at bringing you down, but I think we just have to realize these things for what they are and not take them to heart, just keep on doing our best," she ad vised the audience and Ben Lyons.

Those attending the first "In Conversation With" session were very pleasantly charmed by Ms. Madsen.

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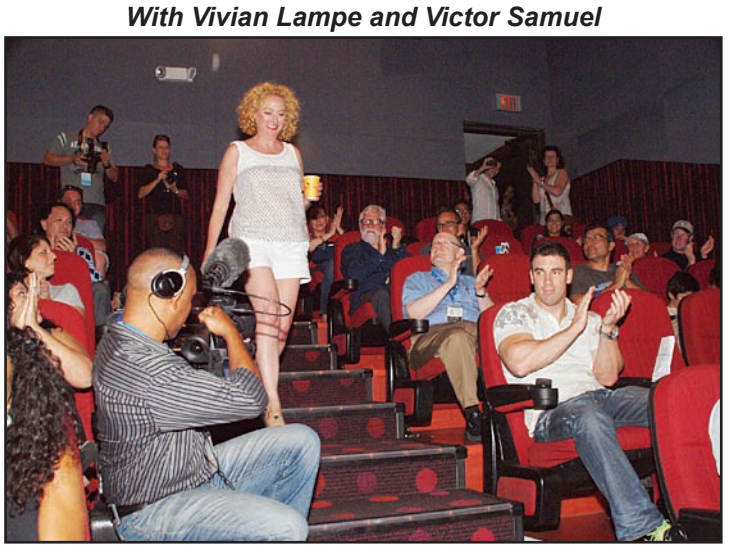
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Magical moments with movies stars . . .

Continued from page 3



With Vivian Lampe and Victor Samuel



Aspiring young filmmakers who attended the session with Oscar-winning film editor Pietro Scalia raved about his pointers on the art and were astounded at the many famous movies he had to his credit.

Monday at 5:00 PM the ICW session was with Ray Liotta, and sessions with Xavier Samuel, Val Lauren, star of the James Franco directed "Sal" the story of the last 24 hours in the life of Sal Mineo, and Diego Risquez and Luigi Sciamanna of the film "Reveron," the story of the famous artist, are coming up.

by Rosalie Klein

THE ANIMAL RELIEF FOUNDATION ARUBA

ARF (Aruba Relief Foundation) needs your help to transport 5 puppies to Boston. They all still fit under the airline seat. ARF also needs to send one adult dog to Atlanta on Delta and another adult dog to Boston on either American Airlines or Delta. Would you like to volunteer? Then call Kathy at 562-4453…thanks

Digicel chose best behaved school for a Juanes Musical treat

Students and teachers of the Maria College MAVO school could hardly believe what was happening last Friday morning when world-famous artist Juanes appeared at their school.

A small stage and sound equipment was set up in record time. The shouts of emotion could be heard way outside the school grounds when security people surrounded the school and the great Columbian artist, Juanes, stepped unto the stage.

Juanes delighted the students with some of his most popular songs. Before singing, he took a few moments to answer questions and interact with the kids. The energy and positive attitude of the singer inspired the kids to press on positively and to realize their desires and dreams.

Juanes has a foundation in Colombia called Mi Sangre. He and his organization, "Paz sin Fronteras," indicated that they decided that he would come to Aruba early enough to be able to visit at least one school.

Digicel, one of the main sponsors of the Aruba International Film Festival, made it possible for 3000 students to see different Films and to talk to different film directors at the Cas di Cultura during the past week. Digicel also made



it possible for a few students of different schools to attend a Film Lab where they learned some of the technical aspects of making a film.



As they were present with most of the different student groups, Digicel had the task of selecting the school that Juanes would visit.

Digicel's general manager, Remko van der Veldt, indicated that Maria College MAVO was chosen because they were the best behaved group during their visit to the Cas di Cultura. During her welcome address to Juanes, school headmaster, teacher Garido, expressed to her students that …"good behavior has its rewards...and sometimes in a 'sweet' way."



The visit of Juanes to the school reportedly made a major impact on the children, headmaster Garido and the entire team of the Maria College School. They lacked for words to describe their experience. They thanked Juanes for his spectacular visit and Digicel for making it all possible!



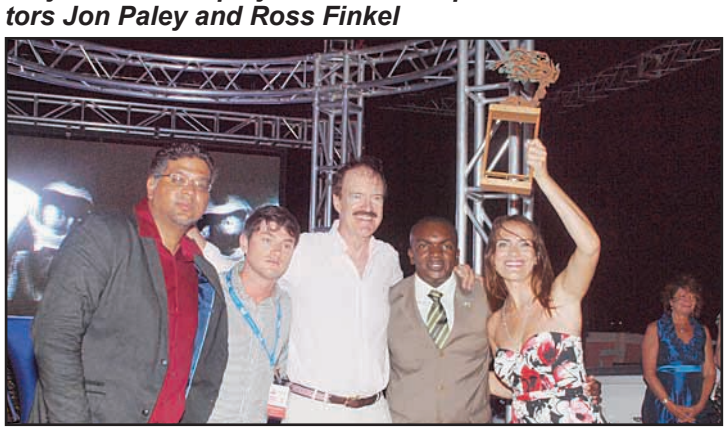


Caribbean Spotlight and Aruba Flavor Winners 2012 . . .

Continued from page 5



Jury Choice Ballplayer Pelotero coproducers and directors Jon Paley and Ross Finkel



CSS People's Choice Winners Children of the Wind with Aaron Hose and Director Dumfries

Aaron conceded it was a battle for veteran filmmakers that comprised the jury: Rigoberto Lopez of Cuba and President of the Traveling Ca- ribbean Film Showcase, Eddy Wijngaarde of Suriname and last year's People's Choice Winner of the CSS, Kareem Mortimer, from The Bahamas.

Awards were presented by the Director of Aruba's Department of Culture, Siegfried Dumfries, who confirmed his presence was the DCA's whole-hearted support of the purpose and ideals of the CSS and Aruba Flavor contests. Winning entries were:

- Jury Award for Best Aruba Flavor Film – "WAKE UP" by Ken Wolff.

- Jury Award for Best Caribbean Spotlight Series Film - Tie: GHETT'A LIFE by Chris Browne and

- " B A L L P L A Y E R : PELOTERO" by Ross Finkel, Trevor Martin and Jonathan Paley

- Audience Award for Best Aruba Flavor Film – "AWA BRAK" by Juan Francisco Pardo Wernet and Ryan Daniel Oduber

- Audience Award for Best Caribbean Spotlight Series Film – "Children of the Wind" directed by Daphne Schmon and produced by Robert McCormick Schmon.

"This year, the quality of the entries was fantastic," commented Aaron Hose. "It made it very hard to narrow down to the selected competition films, but we managed. Response and growth for the series has been overwhelming, from first year to this one."

"This proves how much the fest is inspiring filmmaking on the island and the local industry is starting to develop at a remarkable pace. Perhaps soon we'll have some high quality feature films being produced by Aruban filmmakers. And of course we hope to continue the festival so that we'll have a venue with which to introduce these Aruban films to the international press," he concluded.

The Aruba International Film Festival continues at The Cinemas through Thursday evening with glittering red carpet premieres of provocative and exciting films from around the world in all languages, all subtitled in English. A full schedule of screenings and events can be found on their website: www.arubainternationalfilmfestival.com and in the festival's collectable magazine, distributed around Palm Beach Resorts and at the Paseo Herencia box office.

by Rosalie Klein



COTW crew and stars with Aaron Hose and DCA Director Dumfries



Special Mention America star and Director Sonia Fritz

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

International News

Obama hits road in fateful week



DURHAM (AFP) - US President Barack Obama hit the campaign trail Monday, shadowed by a week of fateful events at home and abroad weighing heavily on his knife-edge hopes of reelection.

Obama headed to the battleground state of New Hampshire and then Boston, polishing up a fresh assault on the profit-chasing past of venture capitalist-turned Republican White House hopeful Mitt Romney.

Pivotal political moments loom as Obama girds for a Supreme Court judgment, likely on Thursday, on the health care reform law that is his main argument to being a transformational leader.

Scorching election-year politics also surround a House of Representatives contempt vote against Attorney General Eric Holder, who has become a lightning rod for opposition to the Obama presidency.

The White House will anxiously peer toward a eurozone summit in Brussels as well, hoping at last for swift, sweeping action to contain Europe's debt crisis, which threatens the US economy and Obama's political welfare.

Each of this week's political dramas could have an important, yet unpredictable impact on the race to November's election.

On the face of it, the embarrassment for Obama, a former constitutional lawyer, would be acute if the Supreme Court splits along ideological lines and strikes down all or part of the Affordable Care Act.

But the demise of the law could also galvanize liberal voters dismayed by Obama's diminished reformist zeal, for whom health reform is a lifelong cause.

A reversal will at the very least inject the Supreme Court into the center of the White House race.

With four of the nine Supreme Court justices in their 70s, the next president may make making several appointments to the bench, with the potential to shape American public life for decades to come.

The health care ruling also presents Republicans with a tricky moment as party leaders do not want to be seen as delirious over a political victory that could deprive millions of health coverage.

Holder's plight will also fixate Washington this week, as he faces an unprecedented contempt of Congress vote over a botched government gunrunning sting designed to trap Mexican drugs gangs.

But like health care, the politics of the Holder showdown are uncertain, and Republicans may anger voters who perceive a sideshow detracting from their prime concern -- the slow economic recovery.

Obama's row with Republicans on heading off a hike in interest rates on future student loans will also come to a head this week. Republicans claim the spat is a shallow appeal by Obama to the important youth vote.

Ultimately, the eurozone summit could do most to seal Obama's fate.

At last week's G20 talks in Mexico, US officials pressured key European leaders for substantial action on framing a pan-European banking and financial system and deposit guarantee scheme in a bid to quell the regional crisis.

The Brussels summit on Thursday and Friday is the most important test yet whether those leaders can muster the will to head off further contagion and market turbulence that could send Europe further into the mire and cripple America's slow recovery.

Obama on Tuesday heads south to Georgia and swing-state Florida.

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Putin in Israel



NETANYA (AFP) - Russian President Vladimir Putin arrived in Israel on Monday his first visit to the country since 2005 for talks with Israeli and Palestinian leaders against the backdrop of sustained violence in Syria and concern on Iran's nuclear programme.

After unveiling a World War II memorial Putin cautioned against foreign interference in Syria ,"from the very beginning of the so-called Arab Spring, Russia has been persuading its partners that democratic changes should take place in a civilised manner and without external intervention." Analysts see Putin's trip to Israel followed by a visit to the West Bank and Jordan today as a diplomatic mission as world powers scramble for a solution to stop the bloodshed in Syria and resolve Iran's nuclear crisis.

Russia is pushing for an international Syria conference and has already discussed the plan with Jordan as well as the European Union, Iran and Iraq. The international community has been pursuing talks with Tehran in recent months, but three high-level meetings -- the most recent in Moscow -- have failed to produce any breakthroughs.

The P5+1 group (Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States plus Germany) has agreed to another round of discussions in Istanbul on July 3, but Israel has warned that lengthy talks give Iran time to continue uranium enrichment.



Edinburgh : Supporters of a campaign against Scottish independence pose for pictures in in Edinburgh, Scotland, on June 25, 2012. British lawmakers from across the political spectrum launched a campaign against Scottish independence on Monday, insisting that Scotland benefits from Britain's "unique influence". Alex Salmond, Scotland's First Minister and leader of the pro-independence Scottish National Party (SNP), plans to hold a referendum in autumn 2014 on severing the more than 300-year-old union and launched its campaign last month. AFP PHOTO

International News

Controversial US immigration clause allowed to stand

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US Supreme Court struck down most of Arizona's controversial new immigration law on Monday but let stand a key provision allowing officers to do spot checks of people's identity papers.

The Arizona law has aroused intense controversy because of a particular provision, 2(B), that requires police to stop and demand proof of citizenship of anyone they suspect of being illegal, even without probable cause.

In Monday's ruling, US President Barack Obama and the Justice Department were largely vindicated on the wider issue of state interference into federal law on immigration matters.

However, in a victory for Obama's Republicans opponents, justices unanimously refused to strike down the crucial "check your papers" provision, as they said it was unclear, before its actual implementation, that it would raise constitutional concerns.

Justices rejected a series of other provisions, including those that would have criminalized immigrants for failing to register with the federal government, or for seeking work or working without proper documents.

They also struck down a clause that would have allowed police to arrest those suspected of being deportable without a warrant.

Senator Charles Schumer, chair of the Senate subcommittee on immigration and a senior member of Obama's Democratic Party, called it "as strong a repudiation of the Arizona law as one could expect."

But Obama's Republican presidential challenger Mitt Romney used the decision to attack the president for pursuing wrong-headed immigration policies and making broken promises.

Immigration is a hot-button issue in the United States as Obama and Romney court the sizeable Hispanic vote with just over four months to go until November's tightly-contested presidential election.

Obama chides Republicans for failing to honor a 2008 campaign promise to pass reforms to bring more than 11 million illegal immigrants out of the shadows, a key issue for growing numbers of Hispanic voters.

Earlier this month, Obama ordered a two-year halt to deportations of illegal immigrants who would have benefited from the DREAM Act.

The legislation, which would offer a path to permanent residency for illegal immigrants who were brought to the United States as children and graduate from US high schools, has been blocked by Republicans in Congress.

Lower courts last year opted to strike sections of the Arizona law they said would place a burden on legal resident aliens in the Mexico-border state, where a third of the 6.6 million people are foreign-born and more than 400,000 are illegal immigrants.

Arizona Governor Jan Brewer -- who earlier this year was caught on camera pointing her finger in Obama's face in what looked to be a testy exchange on an airport tarmac -- asked the top court to reinstate the suspended sections.

Monday's decision, written by Justice Anthony Kennedy, was approved by five votes to three -- apart from the decision to uphold, for now, the status checks, which was unanimous.

Mexico and 17 other countries have also filed arguments with the Supreme Court opposing the law. At least 36 states have introduced legislation with elements similar to those in Arizona, five of which have been passed.

Ship with Syrian choppers raises Russian flag: report



MOSCOW (AFP) - A Russian ship that tried to deliver repaired attack helicopters to Syria raised Russia's tricolour flag on Monday as it awaited orders in a naval port to possibly make a second attempt, a report said.

The Alaed cargo vessel dropped anchor at the main base of Russia's Northern Fleet near the city of Murmansk on Sunday after being forced to turn back when its British insurer dropped coverage on learning of the mission's true intent.

The Alaed has raised the Russian flag after sailing under the colours of the tiny Caribbean island nation of Curacao for apparent tax reasons, the Interfax news agency reported.

Analysts said the move should help the Alaed avoid security inspections that come when sailing under the flag of a third country.

The Russian operator that leased the ship for the highly controversial delivery said on Sunday that it was "awaiting further instructions" from the contractors -- whom it did not name -- about which way to sail next.

The Alaed was originally scheduled to head to Russia's Far East after returning from Syria.

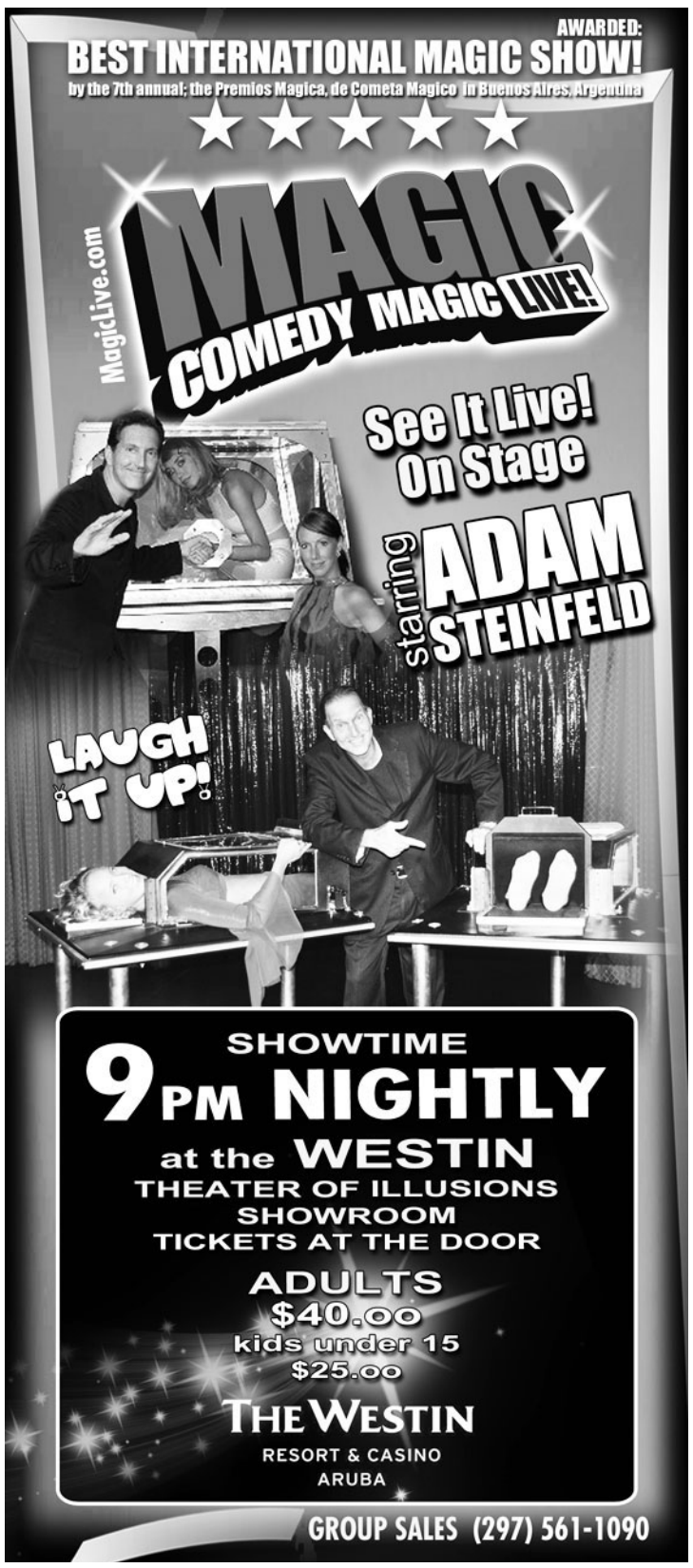
But a diplomatic source told Interfax on Friday that the ship would probably make a second delivery attempt in the accompaniment of at least one other non-naval vessel in the coming days or weeks.

Russia has vehemently denied US accusations that it was supplying weapons to Syria that could be used by the ruling regime against the armed opposition in the country's bloody 16-month conflict.

Moscow says Soviet-era Mi-25 helicopters are being returned to Syria after being repaired at a factory in its Kaliningrad exclave under a contract that could not be breached.

It says its other shipments consist almost exclusively of air defence systems that can help protect Syria's border against an air invasion.

Western powers have stepped up their calls for Moscow to join their own arms embargo of the regime despite Russia's reluctance to break ties with what had been its closest and most strategically important ally in the Middle East.





THE HAGUE (AFP) - Prosecutors in the retrial of Kosovo's former prime minister Ramush Haradinaj sought "at least" 20 years in prison on war crimes charges Monday. "The least sentence that should be imposed is one of 20 years imprisonment," prosecutor Paul Rogers told the Yugoslav war crimes tribunal, which had ordered the retrial after judges found witnesses were intimidated during Haradinaj's original 10-month trial.Haradinaj, 43, the most senior Kosovo leader to stand trial at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, is being retried with fellow ethnic Albanian Idriz Balaj, 40, for war crimes committed during Kosovo's 1998-99 conflict with Serbia.The two men were originally acquitted in April 2008 of war crimes and crimes against humanity, but tribunal appeals judges ordered the retrial after finding their acquittal was due to intimidation of witnesses.

Health & Living

Rare birth defects worry S. Africa health officials



JOHANNESBURG (AFP) - Health officials in South Africa's Eastern Cape region Monday voiced concern at the increased number of children born with rare deformities.

"There have been 50 cases of rare deformities in the past two years and five conjoined twins in less than 18 months," provincial health department spokesman Sizwe Kupelo told AFP.

The latest birth defect registered last week was that of a baby girl born to a 16-year-old, with what looked liked a small penis on the forehead.

"She was born with no nose, and where there are supposed to be eyes there was nothing, just skin covered over the area," Kupelo said.

In April one baby was born with the brain exposed, only covered by a thin layer of skin.

Last year another baby was born with a heart exposed while a pair of conjoined twins shared a heart and liver.

According to Kupelo, all the children die within weeks.

"There is a local pediatrician who has shown interest in studying the possible causes," he said.

Most of the cases are treated at Nelson Mandela Academic hospital in Mthatha. Some are transferred to other hospitals outside the region with advanced facilities.

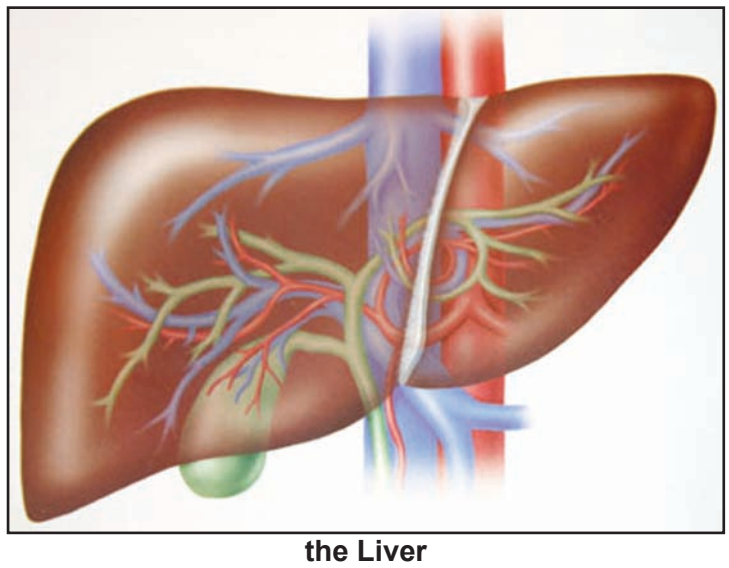
What has puzzled health officials was the fact that the majority of the cases come from the Transkei region, one of the most impoverished and underdeveloped areas in the country, said Kupelo.

Basic supplies for a First-aid kit :

***Adhesive tape**
***Antibiotic ointment**
***Antiseptic solution or towelettes**
***Bandages, including a roll of elastic wrap (Ace, Coban, others) and bandage strips (Band-Aid, Curad, others) in assorted sizes**
***Instant cold packs**
***Cotton balls and cotton-tipped swabs**
***Disposable latex or synthetic gloves, at least two pair**
***Duct tape**
***Gauze pads and roller gauze in assorted sizes**
***First-aid manual**
***Petroleum jelly or other lubricant**
***Plastic bags for the disposal of contaminated materials**
***Safety pins in assorted sizes**
***Scissors and tweezers**
***Soap or instant hand sanitizer**
***Sterile eyewash, such as a saline solution**
***Thermometer**
***Triangular bandage**
***Turkey baster or other bulb suction device for flushing out wounds**



Italy hospital conducts first fully robotic liver procedure



the Liver

ROME (AFP) - A medical transplant centre on the Italian island of Sicily said Monday it had carried out the world's first partial liver transplant using only a robot to remove the organ of the donor.

According to a statement from the ISMETT transplant centre in Palermo, only the arms of a robot entered the abdomen of the 44-year-old donor looking to save his 46-year-old brother suffering from cirrhosis of the liver.

Thanks to the robot, only five keyhole incisions and one nine-centimetre (3.5-inch) incision were required for the operation, the centre said.

The procedure, known as hepatectomy, was performed in March but the news was held until the recipient was given a clean bill of health and discharged from hospital, the centre said.

The procedure lasted 10 hours and the two brothers recovered well, with the donor leaving hospital after nine days and the recipient leaving a few weeks later.

The surgical first was carried out using the Da Vinci SHDI robotic surgical system, a multi-tentacled device conceived at the Robotic Surgery Center in Pisa.

"The use of new technologies in transplant surgery is extremely important since reducing trauma for patients may encourage living organ donations and increase the number of transplants," the centre said.

Britain's Cameron plans radical welfare shake-up

LONDON (AFP) - Prime Minister David Cameron on Monday set out radical plans to reform Britain's welfare system, including housing benefit cuts that could see young adults forced to move back in with their parents.

Cameron said the shake-up, which also includes a time limit on unemployment benefit for people who have been out of work for several years, would end the "nonsense of paying people more to stay at home than to get a job".

"Why has it become acceptable for many people to choose a life on benefits?" said the Conservative leader.

Cameron, who came to power in 2010 in a coalition with the centrist Liberal Democrats, said his government had inherited a welfare system that created "perverse incentives".

He added: "It gave us millions of working-age people sitting at home on benefits even before the recession hit," he said in a major speech in Kent, southeast England. "It created a culture of entitlement."

The controversial plan to withdraw housing benefits for people under the age of 25 would "stop the state dragging young people into dependency," the prime minister said.

But the opposition Labour party attacked the proposal, saying young families "with their first foot on the career ladder will be knocked off if help with their rent is taken away".

Cameron, whose government has introduced steep austerity measures in a bid to shrink its yawning deficit, said Britain needed "a welfare system that the country can properly afford".

Unemployed people may be required to have a CV to claim benefits, and people on sickness benefits could be forced to take steps to improve their health.

Single parents on benefits could be forced to look for work when their child is three years old, as opposed to five under the current system.



Sci-Tech

Rising sea level puts US Atlantic coast at risk: *report*



Buildings are seen near the ocean as reports indicate that Miami-Dade County in Florida in the future could be one of the most susceptible places when it comes to rising water levels due to global warming.

(AFP) - The sea level on a stretch of the US Atlantic coast that features the cities of New York, Norfolk and Boston is rising up to four times faster than the global average, a report said Sunday.

This increases the flood risk for one of the world's most densely-populated coastal areas and threatens wetland habitats, said a study reported in the journal Nature Climate Change.

If global temperatures continue to rise, the sea level on this portion of the coast by 2100 could rise up to 30 centimetres over and above the one-metre global surge projected by scientists, it added.

The localised acceleration is thought to be caused by a disruption of Atlantic current circulation.

The hotspot stretches from Cape Hatteras, Northern Carolina to north of Boston, Massachusetts and also includes other big cities like Philadelphia and Baltimore.

"Scientists predict that this will lead to increased beach erosion and more frequent coastal flooding."USGS research oceanographer and study co-author Kara Doran explained.

Another study has shown a one-metre sea level rise to increase New York's severe flooding risk from one incident every century to one every three years.

The USGS report was based on actual tide level measurements, said Doran. Other studies have shown a similar hotspot using climate models.

In a 2007 assessment report, the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change said global warming would cause the sea level to rise by up to 59 centimetres by century's end.

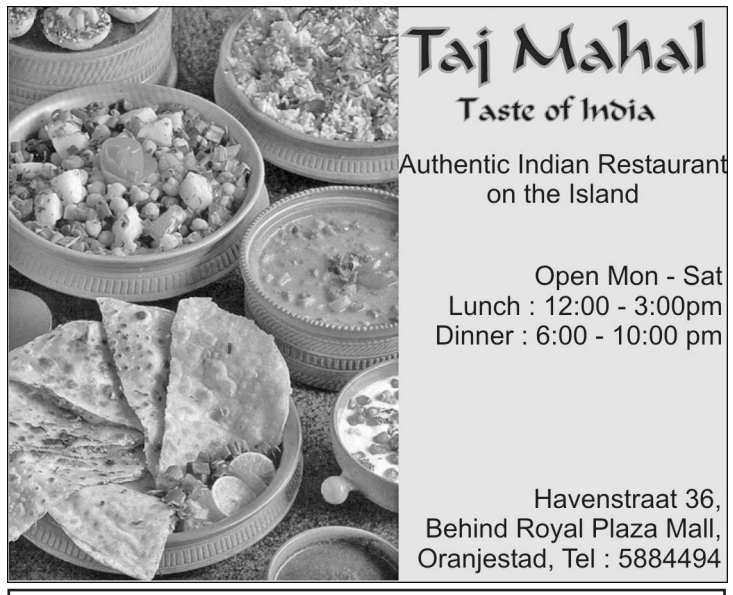
Even this relatively modest projection would render several island nations unlivable and wreak havoc in low-lying deltas home to hundreds of millions.

But reports since then have said that melting Arctic ice plays a greater role in sea level rise than previously suspected, and most climate change scientists now project the ocean will rise roughly a metre by century's end.

Climate warming causes sea levels to rise by melting land-ice and through the thermal expansion of water.

In a separate study in Nature Climate Change, European scientists said a 1.5-degree-Celsius rise in global temperatures would see sea levels peak at about 1.5 metres above 2000 levels.

But warming of two degrees would result in sea levels reaching 2.7 metres -- nearly double.

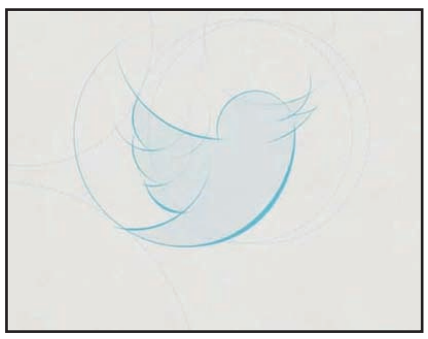


Debby soaks Fla.; gov declares statewide emergency



Tropical Storm Debby is seen in this National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration handout satellite image dated June 25, 2012. The storm meandered slowly to the Florida coast on Sunday, bringing strong winds and waves that forced the closure of about a quarter of offshore oil and gas production in the Gulf of Mexico and spawning tornadoes that killed one person.

Police on the tweet for Wimbledon



(AFP) - Scotland Yard will be tweeting updates from the Wimbledon tennis championships for the first time this year, a spokeswoman said Monday as the tournament got under way.

A dedicated Metropolitan Police Service press officer at the All England Club will be sending out arrest updates and other items of note throughout the two-week tournament.

"Good morning, and welcome to the first day of Wimbledon. Follow us live from in and around the grounds for updates," said the first tweet of the Championships from Merton MPS.

The updates will likely include messages about queues, ticket tout warnings, crime prevention and safety.

The number of officers at the All England Club, in the southwest London borough of Merton, has been boosted this year ahead of the London 2012 Olympics.



About a hundred houses float on a lake in the Amsterdam neighbourhood of Ijburg --a testament to how the Dutch are trying to turn their traditional enemy, water, into an ally against overcrowding. The homes are cubic, with walls of plastic and untreated wood in neutral colours, built entirely with non-polluting materials. They take a few months to construct. Nine million people in the Netherlands live in inland areas directly sheltered from the sea and rivers by dykes and dunes, and 65 percent of the national production capacity lies in flood-prone areas. The Ijburg houses rest on floating, concrete bases fixed to two solidly planted pillars to keep them stable, all the while allowing them to adjust to the water level. They are linked to dry land by wharfs, through which they receive gas, electricity and running water. Other Dutch municipalities, like Almere on a river just east of the Ijmeer, and Leeuwarden, in the north, have also launched experimental floating house projects.





COMICS

PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBES



CROSSWORD CROSSWORD



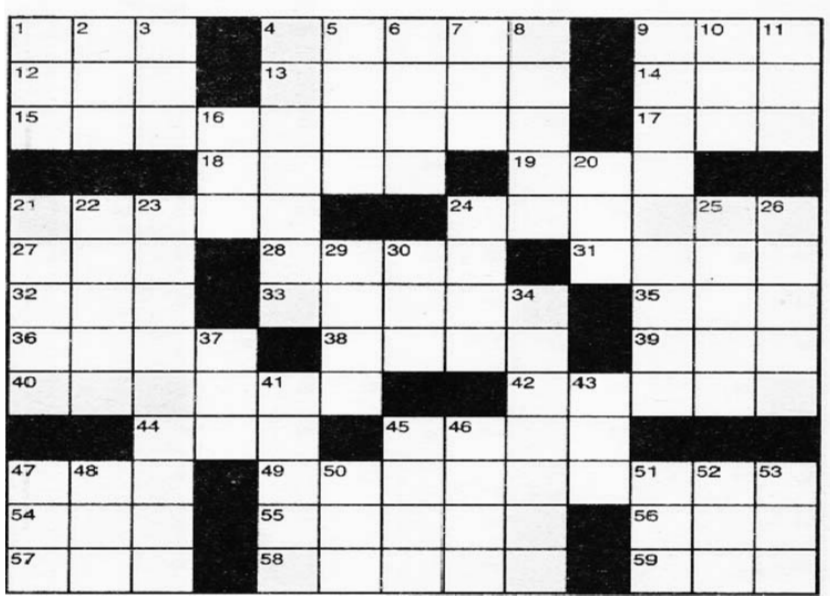
FREE Coverage on our website:
www.themorningnewsaruba.com

ACROSS

1. Grade Point Average (abbr.)
4. Maxim
9. Motel's offering (abbr.)
12. Acorn's tree
13. Stay away from
14. ___ de toilette
15. Put on a wall covering
17. Freight weight
18. Slangy negative
19. Private ___
21. Minds
24. Fads
27. PPO alternative
28. Cloth belt
31. Upon
32. Clergy member (abbr.)
33. Internet letters (hyph.)
35. "The Lady ___ Tramp" (2 wds.)
36. Native minerals
38. "___ girl!" (2 wds.)
39. Above, to a bard
40. Corporation's rules
42. Meaning
44. Sneaker front
45. Almost closed
47. Canadian prov.
49. Bright shade (2 wds.)
54. Roadway (abbr.)
55. Do housework
56. Modern diagnostic test (abbr.)
57. Marx's "___ Kapital"
58. Reddish-colored hair rinse
59. File label

DOWN

1. Grand Old Party (abbr.)
2. Good friend
3. Alias inits.
4. Painter Henri
5. Cookie maker's need
6. Wrongful act, legally
7. Attachment
8. Stranger
9. Memory
10. ___ jacket ('60s style)
11. Heavenly body
16. Somber
20. Affirmative
21. Pulsate
22. ___ board
23. Faddish gift items
24. The one here
25. Prescribed portions
26. Bowling term
29. French friends
30. Convened
34. Layered pasta dish
37. ___ Paulo (Brazilian city)
41. Actress Raquel
43. Slip up
45. Prayer close
46. Actress Harlow
47. Knee guard
48. Zsa Zsa's sister
50. ___ du Diable (Devil's Island)
51. Rescue worker (abbr.)
52. Prohibition



BOTICA



DRUG STORES OPEN AFTER HOURS

JUNE 23 - JUNE 30

O'stad :'Serv. Maria N.V.' - S.N : ' 4 Centro Medico N.V.'

Center for Hemodialysis
Posada Clinic Aruba
Tel.580-2840/Pager 127-2446

INFORMATION
Telephone 118

Twelve Step Meetings
24 hours helpline 583-8989

Fellowship Clinic S.N.
Free treatment of Alcoholism and Drug Addiction
Anonymity guaranteed
Tel. 584-5440

SOS TELEAYUDO SOS
Telephone Helpline
583-1190
Mon.-Thu. 9 p.m.-12 midn.
Fri.-Sun. 9 p.m.-2 a.m.

CAS MARIE
Alzheimer's Day Care Center
Tel: 5696910



HOSPITAL
Horacio Oduber Hospital
Tel. **5274000**

EMERGENCY
Telephone 911

POLICE HDQS
Telephone 100

TAXI
C.V. TAS
587-1998, 587-5900
In Oranjestad:
Tel. 582-2116, 582-1604
582-5447
In San Nicolas
Tel. 584-5160, 584-6602
professional taxi services
Tel. 588-0035

Al Anon Meetings
Mondays 6-7pm
Sabana Liber 8 in Noord
Tel: 5673356 / 5838989

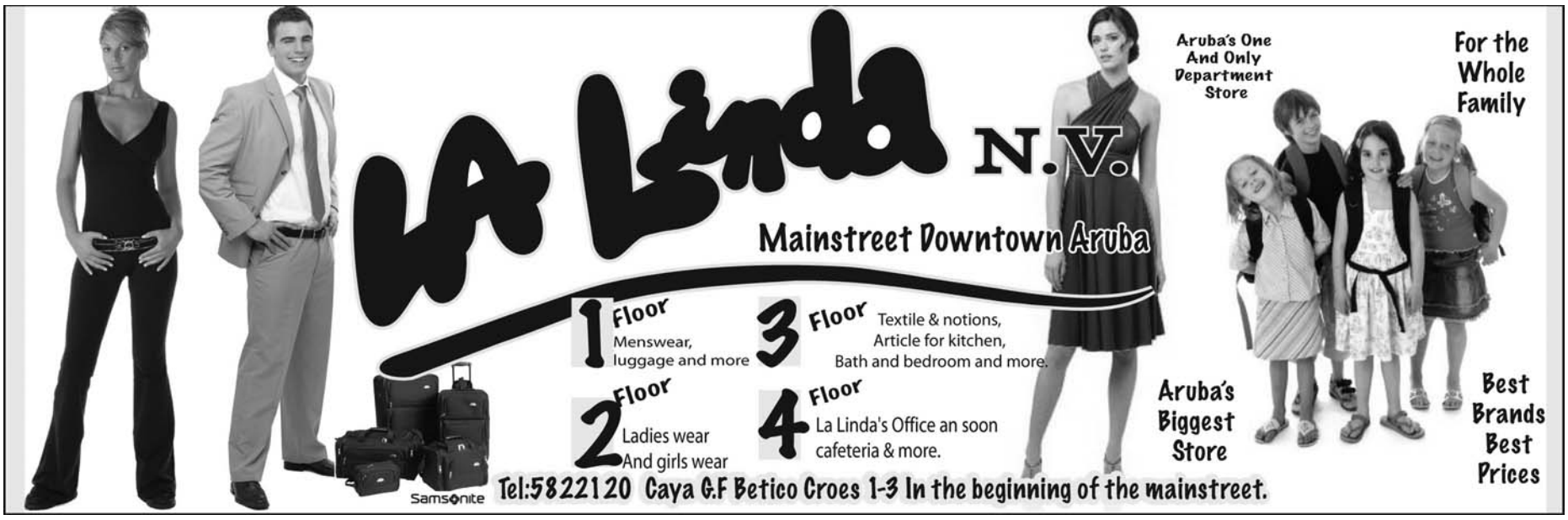
Sudoku

7			3			9		
	6				8	7		
	5				4			
9			2		5			
6		5				2		7
			8		7			4
			5				3	
		3	4				1	
		4			3			9

SOLUTION

9	7	8	3	1	6	4	2	5
5	1	2	6	7	4	3	9	8
4	3	2	4	8	5	9	7	1
4	9	5	7	6	8	1	3	2
7	8	1	3	9	2	5	4	6
6	8	7	2	4	5	3	1	9
3	5	8	7	9	4	1	2	6
3	5	7	8	2	1	9	6	4
8	4	6	9	5	3	2	1	7

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



Finance

Microsoft buys business social startup Yammer

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - Microsoft announced yesterday a billion-dollar deal to buy startup Yammer which specializes in social networks for businesses.

Microsoft said that it will pay $1.2 billion in cash for Yammer, which will become part of the US technology titan's Office Division.

"The acquisition of Yammer underscores our commitment to deliver technology that businesses need and people love," said Microsoft chief executive Steve Ballmer.

"Yammer adds a best-in-class enterprise social networking service to Microsoft's growing portfolio of complementary cloud services."

Yammer was launched in San Francisco in 2008 and enables companies to make private networks that let employees communicate Twitter-style while keeping exchanges away from public viewing.

Yammer has more than five million users, including workers at 85 percent of the Fortune 500 companies, according to Redmond, Washington-based Microsoft.

Microsoft said that it planned to promote adoption of Yammer's service tied to complementary offerings of software or services such as SharePoint, Skype, and Office 365.

"When we started Yammer four years ago, we set out to do something big," said Yammer chief executive David Sacks.

"We had a vision for how social networking could change the way we work," he continued.

Meanwhile, in Helsinki shares in beleaguered telecom giant Nokia plunged to a 16-year low yesterday after Microsoft said its Windows 8 upgrade would not work on Nokia's new flagship smartphone, the Lumia 900 model.

Nokia's share price shed 10 percent yesterday, to 1.73 euros, its lowest point since August 1996 when it hit 1.71 euros.

At the beginning of this year, a share in the company cost 4.0 euros.

Minister: France needs up to 10 bn euros to cut deficit

PARIS (AFP) - France must find up to 10 billion euros to cut its public deficit to 4.5 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), Finance Minister Pierre Moscovici said yesterday.

Moscovici told iTele television that the new socialist government was looking for seven to 10 billion euros ($12.5 billion), and added: "We are somewhere in the middle I imagine, but I am waiting to see the official figures."

The numbers given were lower than the government's previous estimate of about 10 billion euros and came hours before a seminar attended by France's 38 newly installed ministers to brainstorm the country's budgetary challenges.

In 2011, France posted a public deficit, which includes state and social services spending such as the public health system, of 5.2 percent of GDP, and in March the former government cut its 2012 target to 4.4 percent.

Under EU rules, eurozone countries are supposed to keep deficits below 3.0 percent of GDP, and work towards a balance or even a surplus in times of economic growth.

Ministers were tight-lipped after the seminar with only a brief statement coming from Prime Minister Jean Marc Ayrault's office reiterating the government's commitment to balance France's budget by the end of President Francois Hollande's term in 2017.

Moscovici said that a European Union summit to take place on Thursday in Brussels had to see eurozone countries offer "structural solutions" to a crisis that is now in its third year.

He insisted that this meeting of EU leaders "is not a banal summit".

Markets and other countries around the world "expect Europeans to finally come up with structural solutions, and that is what they are looking for".

Moscovici said the summit should "finally provide the euro with a political spine, and banking regulation".

As for France, the finance minister said his government was working for "a structural fiscal reform of income taxes and corporate taxes that would occur in the autumn."

Spain and Cyprus request eurozone rescues

MADRID (AFP) - Spain yesterday formally requested a banking rescue of up to 100 billion euros ($125 billion) and Cyprus also asked for a bailout, as a pivotal week for the eurozone's future began.

With EU leaders under mounting pressure to take steps to deepen integration to finally get to grips with the debt crisis at a two-day summit beginning on Thursday, Cyprus becomes the fifth out of the bloc's 17 members to seek assistance.

There was increasing uncertainty about the new Greek government, with the incoming finance minister resigning over health reasons and Prime Minister Antonis Samaras recovering from a detached retina, with a review of its bailout program delayed.

Spain's request provided no exact figure for the aid to be delivered to its banks, which are hobbled by huge, reckless loans that turned sour after a property bubble imploded in 2008.

Though a formality, it came at a key moment in the eurozone crisis after debt markets sent Spanish and Italian borrowing rates spiralling and raised concerns for the future of the currency union itself.

A full-blown bailout for Spain, the fourth-largest economy in the eurozone, would dwarf the rescues of Ireland, Greece and Portugal and strain the resources of the bloc to the limit.

"Whether Spain will also need full-fledged financial support beyond the bank program will depend on its ability to retain market access," said Antonio Garcia Pascual, analyst at Barclays Research.

"This in turn depends on both Spain's policy commitments and, to a greater extent, on the speed with which Europe's decisions evolve towards greater financial and fiscal integration in the coming days and weeks."

European Union leaders are set to consider deepening economic and monetary union when they meet on Thursday and Friday to finally overcome the debt crisis that has wracked the eurozone for two years.

Markets were sceptical however that European leaders would overcome their differences to take significant steps.

London stocks fell 1.14 percent, Frankfurt dropped 2.09 percent, Paris sank 2.24 percent, Milan tumbled 4.02 percent, Madrid plunged 3.67 percent and Athens tanked 6.84 percent.

MONDAY'S Crossword Answer

T	H	O			B	I	C			T	O	R	T	
R	U	N		A	L	D	A			O	L	E	O	
A	G	E		S	T	O	P	A	N	D	G	O		
P	E	A	C	E		S	E	C	T					
			B	A	H			L	O	L	L			
A	L	M	S		O	A	H	U			E	I	N	
M	O	I			P	S	I				S	T	U	
A	T	M		N	E	I	L			I	T	E	M	
	S	E	M	I			L	B	S					
			A	P	E	D		E	M	A	I	L		
O	V	E	R	S	T	A	T	E		M	R	I		
K	I	L	T		C	L	E	F		O	A	K		
S	A	S	S		H	E	X			S	S	E		

Daily Exchange Rates



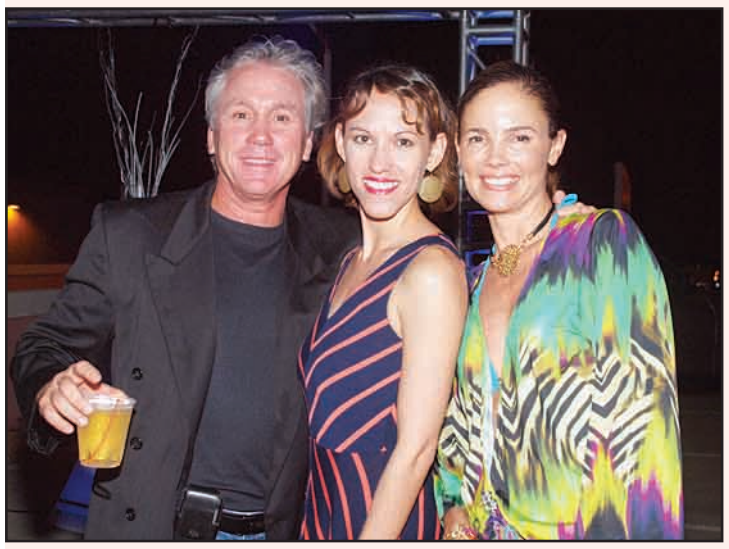
Current as of: 06/25/2012

Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A. USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada CAD	1.71	1.73	1.75
Britiain GBP	2.70	2.75	2.81
Switzerland CHF	185.04	185.76	186.56
Netherlands EUR	220.41	222.42	224.65
Sweden SEK	24.23	24.95	25.95
Denmark DKK	28.95	29.67	30.47
Norway NOK	28.69	29.41	30.21
Japan (per 10,000) JPY	221.36	223.38	225.62

All rates for amounts up to AWG 100,00 per item.

BMW hosts an elegant affair to announce the winners of the AIFF Caribbean Spotlight Series

Continued from page 1



Alex Lovera, Ronella Tjin Asjoe Croes and Diane Lovera



Children of the Wind Crew



96 hours Instructor Darryl Wilson with students



Xavier Samuel with COTW filmmakers Daphne Schmon and Alex CampbellKareem Mortimer



Last Year's judge Emmanuel Itier with this year's Kareem Mortimer



Maureen Heffernan acting coach for 96 hours and Donna M



A winner 2012, Ross Finkel, with last year's People Choice winner Kareem Mortimer



Curators on the Go with People's Choice art competition winner Elvis Tromp



Maki Wiggins and Hubert Oliveri

Ray Liotta, whose classic star vehicle "Goodfellas" shared the Sunday night Red Carpet with the hilarious comedy from Australia "A Few Best Men," was on hand, as was the handsome young star Xavier Samuel of the film from the land down under, who had traveled all that way from his homeland to attend the AIFF for the premiere. They shared a table with AIFF Creative Director Claudio Masenza and the star of the opening night red carpet offering, Oscar-nominated actress Virginia Madsen, appearing the "The Magic of Belle Isle" co-starring Morgan Freeman.

Actor Richard Kind, well known for his role on the long running series "Spin City" and his starring turn in "A Serious Man," had just arrived. He will be sharing his film expertise with the enthusiastic young film students of the AIFF "96 Hours" program.

This stunning evening of island glitterati mixing with internationally known celebrities and media was a delightful and fitting end to the most successful Caribbean Spotlight Series and Aruba Flavor competitions, with a greater number of entries of superb and provocative films produced on Aruba and in the region, focusing on Caribbean culture and social issues.

by Rosalie Klein



Aruban newscaster Ruben Trappenberg with Actor Richard Kind

Adorable and affordable; 5 Burgers Aruba offers an island twist to the great American Burger

Expatriates from Boston, Massachusetts, residing on Aruba, Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. Some may be quite well acquainted with a nationally known U.S franchise bearing the name "5", and patrons can expect the same great quality between the buns, but an expanded menu and Rosie and Aaron's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu.



Rosie and Aaron love their Burger too

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," comments Aaron; and upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy, made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.



Gouda Burger 2

Prices vary only slightly between regular and small (basically 2 patties or 1) with specialty items such as Gouda Burger, Farmer's Burger, Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with crispy onion rings and BBQ sauce. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jalapeño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato…whatever the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries, which are made from hand-cut fresh Idaho potatoes, is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!" Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

If you are a fan of crispy friend onion rings, as we are at THE MORNING NEWS, you cannot leave there without trying their secret recipe batter-dipped gourmet rings, made from fresh, not frozen onions. Unquestionably, the best we have had anywhere, and for those that like a little spice, the fried jalapeños are a real treat. Aaron and Rosie have expanded their menu to accommodate certain tastes and dietary needs; they offer a tasty grilled chicken sandwich as well.

5 Burgers Aruba is open for lunch & dinner – daily hours are Noon to 10-ish; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district for orders over $50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for the owners when things are not too busy, to sit and chat while sharing their knowledge of the island. Totally yummy and fun plus a great deal for a quality burger, they are definitely worth a visit

Bon Dia and Welcome to Aruba!



Whether you're a first time visitor to the island, or you vacation with us every year we invite you to enjoy one of the most memorable vacation destinations of your life. We know, we're Divi Resorts and Aruba has been our home for over 40 years.

Divi Resorts has 5 resorts in Aruba, in addition to The Links at Divi Aruba golf course, and the Alhambra Casino. For years we've offered high quality all inclusive and timeshare vacations; and over 40,000 members actively participate in the Divi Vacation Ownership Program.

Many of our guests have found that one vacation to Aruba per year is simply not enough! Our solution: The Residences at Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort.

The Residences are luxury full ownership condominiums nestled within the lush greens of The Links at Divi Aruba golf course.







Make Aruba your second home! Condominiums from the $300s.

You can now purchase your own condominium and still enjoy the resort amenities of the Divi collection.

For more information about The Residences, visit our sales office located in the golf clubhouse at the Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort.

For questions or to schedule your appointment to view a condominium, contact sales director John Kelly at (297) 583-9971 or email:sales@diviarubaresidences.com

We hope you will soon call Aruba home!



AMENITIES:

- Covered parking space with electrical outlet
- Radio phone to call for transportation
- Complimentary shuttle to beach, restaurants, and the Alhambra Casino and Mall
- Membership with RCI vacation exchange program
- Complimentary use of fitness center
- Complimentary use of beach chairs
- Beach towels service
- 24/7 Security
- Garbage collection
- Green keeping
- Condo Liaison on duty
- Discounted green fees
- Complimentary use of driving range
- Preferred tee times
- Divi managed rental program
- 24/7 availability of front desk, maintenance and housekeeping services
- Complimentary use of all amenities at Divi Village
- Reduced pricing on all inclusive option at Divi and Tamarijn Aruba All Inclusives.

FREE CAR
Limited time:
Eco-friendly electric car
for every residences owner



EURO 2012 - POLAND - UKRAINE
June 8 - July 1

Cameron said beaten England did 'country proud'



LONDON (AFP) - British Prime Minister David Cameron said the England football team had made "the country proud" following their exit from Euro 2012 after a quarter-final defeat by Italy in a penalty shoot-out.

Cameron, speaking on Monday, said he had watched Sunday's match in Kiev on television and joked that as the game, which ended goalless after extra-time, wore on he felt it would end in a shoot-out.

After giving a speech on welfare reform at a shopping centre in Greenhithe, Kent, south-east of London, Cameron said England, managed by Roy Hodgson, had put on a "great display" to get to the knockout stages.

"I watched the match and I thought England showed a lot of heart, and a lot of spirit and a lot of dogged determination, as you'd expect," said Cameron.

"There were some brilliant individual performances and a real team effort but sadly, as has happened before, you sort of felt as you were watching that it will probably end on penalties and you knew how penalties may probably end," he added in a reference to England's record of now losing six out of seven shoot-outs since 1990.

Cameron said he was not convinced by Italy goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon's tongue-in cheek comment that he intended to prepare for the match by watching 'blue' movies instead of looking at tapes of England's penalty-takers.

"I think he was concentrating a bit harder than that," he said. "But I would like to congratulate the (England) team and the manager and all who worked so hard with them and for them to put on a great display.

"They made the country proud to go through the group stage in the way that they did."

No British ministers attended matches in Ukraine, which is co-hosting the tournament with Poland, in protest at the country's human rights record.

But they had been under pressure to say whether that stance would change if England had remained involved in Euro 2012, with opposition foreign policy spokesman Douglas Alexander submitting a written question asking if ministers planned to cheer on England in the latter stages.

However, Foreign Secretary William Hague replied Monday: "The Government regrets that this question is no longer relevant."

French MP blasts bonuses for French failures

PARIS (AFP) - French Socialist lawmaker Olivier Faure on Monday spoke out against the 100,000 euro bonus being paid out to each member of France's Euro 2012 squad despite their quarter-final exit to Spain.

After the 2-0 loss, midfielder Samir Nasri was involved in a foul-mouthed exchange with a journalist which coach Laurent Blanc admitted had sullied the image of the team just two years after Les Bleus were ridiculed for refusing to train at the last World Cup after Nicolas Anelka was sent home.

"Today, many French people will ask why we pay so much out to people who respect the public so little," Faure, a close ally of President Francois Hollande, told Europe 1 radio.

The French earned further brickbats in the press when most of them did not greet fans on their arrival back from the competition in Poland and Ukraine, leaving a sour taste among supporters.

"When the French are suffering from things such as a fall in their purchasing power and yet see players pocketing 100,000 euros at the end of this competition before then showing contempt for their public it is very painful," said Faure, saying fans could expect better from their team.

Russian supremo resigns after Euro fiasco



MOSCOW (AFP) - The overall head of football in Russia on Monday resigned after the national team failed to make the knock-out stages of Euro 2012 with a hugely disappointing performance.

"I would like to apologise to the fans for this result," Russian Football Union president Sergei Fursenko told Russian President Vladimir Putin, the Kremlin said.

Russia were knocked out of the Euro 2012 after a defeat by Greece, a below-par performance that exposed deep-rooted problems in the Russian game despite the vast sums of money being ploughed into the sport.

The downfall of Fursenko, who took on his post in 2010, had appeared inevitable since the weekend when Sports Minister Vitaly Mutko said that the Euro flop showed that the Russian game was in need of a major overhaul.

Fursenko said that the team -- boasting talent including established stars like Andrei Arshavin and new talent like Alan Dzagoev -- was strong and had been well prepared by Dutch coach Dick Advocaat.

Mutko at the weekend acknowledged that football was heading in the wrong direction in Russia and said the government needed to interfere more in the running of the game.

The authorities are already seeking to rebuild grass-roots football infrastructure like pitches for youths as well as a serious coaching development system that collapsed along with the Soviet Union in 1991.

The stakes for Russia are now even higher after it won the right to host the 2018 World Cup, a project spearheaded by Putin.

Russia is already looking for a new coach for the national squad after Advocaat announced before the Euro he was quitting his post. He is now taking over PSV Eindhoven in his native Netherlands.

Billions of dollars have been poured into domestic football over recent seasons, notably at Premier League big spenders Anzhi Makhachkala, but the money has yet to lead to a radical change in quality on the pitch.



IndyCar will not replace axed China race



INDIANAPOLIS (AFP) - IndyCar will not add a race this season to replace a canceled event in China, officials announced on Monday, keeping the programme for 2012 at 15 races.

IndyCar had explored replacement options with officials at several tracks after announcing June 13 that it would not stage a planned August 19 event in China, but in the end decided against the move.

"We want to make sure that when we add events to our roster they have long-term potential and are given every opportunity to be successfully promoted," IndyCar chief executive Randy Bernard said.

"The more we explored, the more we felt like we were rushing what could be good, long-lasting opportunities for the sport."

The season will end as planned with an oval race on September 15 at Fontana, California, that will be expanded to 500 miles.

"We think it's something our fans will enjoy and adds another element to what is already shaping up to be an exciting championship battle," Bernard said.

After nine races, three-time winner Australian Will Power leads the championship race with 286 points with American Ryan Hunter-Reay, who won the past two events, only three points behind.

New Zealand's Scott Dixon is third on 271 with Brazil's Helio Castroneves only another 10 points adrift.

The next race is July 8 at Toronto.

Athletics: Comeback tales spark US Olympic sprinters

EUGENE (AFP) - Justin Gatlin is coming back from a doping ban to prove he is a legitimate champion. Tyson Gay wants to see if he can overcome a hip injury. And Bryshon Nellum was shot three times in the legs.

But all three have taken their comeback tales to an Olympian level by qualifying for the London Olympics at the US Track and Field Trials, Gatlin and Gay in the men's 100 meters and Nellum by finishing third in the men's 400.

Gatlin won 2004 Olympic 100m gold but could not defend his title at Beijing while serving a four-year doping ban, but at age 30 ran a personal best of 9.80 to win Sunday's 100m trials final, .05 under his Olympic winning time in 2004.

Gay, who was second in 9.86, had returned only two weeks earlier from right hip surgery last year.

Now Gay, whose 30th birthday on August 9 is four days after the Olympic 100 final, is confident heading to London.

Nellum was shot after a 2008 college party by gang members who mistook him for a rival.

Nellum feared he might never walk again, much less run in the Olympics. But after three surgeries, the most recent on his left hamstring last August, he ran a personal best of 44.80 to qualify for London.

"What doesn't break you makes you stronger," Nellum said. "I just feel like whatever happened, it happened for a reason and now I'm just trying to be a better person and be a better athlete. I think this all just made me stronger.

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Pioneering Saudi woman to miss Games - *FEI*

LAUSANNE (AFP) - Dalma Rushdi Malhas, tipped to become a pioneering woman competitor for Saudi Arabia at the London Olympics, has in fact failed to qualify and won't compete, the International Equestrian Federation (FEI) said Monday.

Saudi Arabia, where public sports events for women are banned, has never fielded women in the Olympics.

Malhas, born in the United States, won a bronze medal at the 2010 Singapore Youth Olympics without having been nominated by her country, following an invitation from the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Malhas, 20, had been aiming to achieve the minimum eligibility standard required for the Olympic Games by the June 17 deadline, but her horse was sidelined by injury and missed a month's work during the qualifying period.

The 12-year-old Swedish mare Caramell KS, which was bought from Swedish rider Svante Johansson at the end of 2011, was found to be suffering from a back problem, putting an end to her hopes of competing in London.

Last week, the BBC reported that the Saudi Olympic Committee will "oversee participation of women athletes who can qualify" for the Games.

The issue of women in sport remains extremely sensitive in the ultra-conservative Muslim state, where women are not even allowed to drive cars and the authorities shut down private gyms for women in 2009 and 2010.

Brunei, meanwhile, will send a woman to London as part of their two-athlete delegation -- 400m hurdler Maziah Mahusin.

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Ryan Lochte competes in preliminary heat 12 of the men's 400m individual medley during the 2012 US Olympic Swimming Team Trials at CenturyLink Center in Omaha, Nebraska. Michael Phelps and Lochte set up their first duel at the US Olympic swimming trials on Monday as they qualified for the final of the 400m individual medley. AFP Photo





MIAMI: Fans cheer as Miami Heat players pass by in a victory parade through the streets during a celebration for the 2012 NBA Champion Miami Heat on June 25, 2012 in Miami, Florida. The Heat beat the Oklahoma Thunder to win the NBA title.

Tennis: Venus crashes, Djokovic, Sharapova untroubled - Wimbledon

LONDON (AFP) - Five-time Wimbledon champion Venus Williams suffered her worst All England Club defeat in 15 years on Monday, but top seeds Novak Djokovic and Maria Sharapova powered into the second round.

Williams lost 6-1, 6-3 to 79th-ranked Russian Elena Vesnina in what was the 32-year-old's first opening round loss since her 1997 debut.

But the former world number one -- the champion in 2000, 2001, 2005, 2007 and 2008 -- believes she can still compete at the top level despite her ranking having slipped to 58 after a six-month absence fighting serious illness.

The American star arrived at Wimbledon, where she was unseeded for the first time since her 1997 debut, short of confidence having been sidelined with Sjogern's Syndrome, a disease which causes joint pain and fatigue.

Monday's defeat was just her fourth loss at the first round stage of a Grand Slam against 52 wins.

Vesnina, who had lost in the first round of nine of her last 10 Grand Slam appearances, will face Polish third seed Agnieszka Radwanska for a place in the last 32.

Top seed Djokovic, opening business on Centre Court, reached the second round with a 6-3, 6-3, 6-1 win over Spanish veteran Juan Carlos Ferrero.

Djokovic, 25, playing for the first time since his French Open final defeat to Rafael Nadal, will next face either America's Ryan Harrison or Lu Yen-Hsun of Taiwan.

Third seed Roger Federer beat Spain's Albert Ramos 6-1, 6-1, 6-1, taking just 79 minutes to kick off his bid for a record-equalling seventh title.

The six-time champion, and record 16-time Grand Slam title winner, will face colourful Italian Fabio Fognini for a place in the last 32.

Federer, shunted out on to Court One for his 2012 opener, fired down nine aces in his straightforward win over left-hander Ramos, the world number 43 who has never won a match on grass.

"The crowd were excited to see us play. I played a good match against a guy who doesn't have much experience on grass courts," said the Swiss.

Federer, without a Grand Slam title since the 2010 Australian Open, is bidding to equal Pete Sampras's record of seven Wimbledon titles.

But he has fallen in the quarter-finals in the last two years, losing from two sets to love up for the first time in his career in 2011 when he went down to France's Jo-Wilfried Tsonga.

Sharapova, who completed a career Grand Slam with victory at the French Open, was second-up on Centre Court and eased past Australia's Anastasia Rodionova 6-2, 6-3.

Sharapova, the 2004 champion, will face Bulgaria's Tsvetana Pironkova, who reached the semi-finals in 2010, in the last 64.

US Open champion Samantha Stosur and ex-French Open winner Li Na also reached the second round.

Stosur, the fifth-seeded Australian, had the honour of being the first woman into the last 64, cruising past Spain's 40th-ranked Carla Suarez Navarro 6-1, 6-3.

Her win earned her a second round match with Arantxa Rus of the Netherlands.

Chinese 11th seed Li Na, the 2011 French Open winner, enjoyed an emphatic 6-3, 6-1 victory over Ksenia Pervak of Kazakhstan. Li next faces Romania's Sorana Cirstea.

Radwanska, a quarter-finalist in 2008 and 2009, made the second round with a 6-3, 6-3 win over Slovakia's Magdalena Rybarikova.

Kim Clijsters, playing her final Wimbledon before retirement, reached the second round on Monday with a 6-2, 6-4 win over Serbian 18th seed Jelena Jankovic.

Clijsters, unseeded this year, will face Andrea Hlavackova of the Czech Republic for a place in the last 32.

The Belgian, a four-time Grand Slam title winner and a Wimbledon semi-finalist in 2003, had come into the tournament under an injury cloud with a stomach strain.

